
**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP
of the
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**August 26, 2008
Minutes**

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

In Attendance:

Alameida, Stacy	MTA
Abrishami, Lori	MTA
Walecka, Carla	TCA

SCAG Staff

Amayta, Naresh
Asuncion, John
Ayala, Rosemary
Luo, Rongsheng
Nadler, Jonathan
Sherwood, Arnie

Via Teleconference:

Alvarez, Grace	RCTC
Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Cacatian, Ben	Ventura County APCD
Chandin, Minno	Caltrans, District 8
Estrella, Romeo	Caltrans District 12
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans, District 8
Franken, Gary	Caltrans, District 12
Gallo, Ilene	Caltrans Headquarters
Johnson, Sandy	Caltrans, District 11
Knox, Michelle	FHWA
Kradville, Amiee	FHWA
Louka, Tony	Caltrans, District 8
Maiah, Adnan	Caltrans, District 12
Moghadasi, Ben	Caltrans, District 12
Morgan, Court	URS representing City of Santa Ana
Morris, Michael	FHWA

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Odufalu, Olufemi	Caltrans, District 8
Poe, Lisa	SANBAG
Sells, Eyvonne	SCAQMD
Wade, Dennis	ARB
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans, District 7

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments.

3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

3.1 Approval Item

3.1.1 TCWG July 22, 2008 Meeting Minutes
The minutes were approved.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 RTP Update

Naresh Amatya, SCAG, stated that staff had been working closely with all the county commissions in amending the RTP. Staff has received over ninety projects to amend into the RTP and will also be doing concurrent amendment to the RTIP to bring it to consistency with the RTP. Staff is performing modeling work now and hopes to bring analytical results on the added projects to the TCWG at next month's meeting. Staff plans to request that the SCAG's Transportation Committee (TC) release a draft for 30-day public review and comments in October. In December, after the public comment period is over, staff will bring the amended RTP forward to the Regional Council (RC) for adoption of the amendment. Although staff is working very hard, there is a potential that the schedule may slip a month. Staff does not anticipate this to be an issue.

In responding to questions, Naresh Amatya clarified:

- The MTA project is for two freeways – I-10 and I-110. MTA has committed to the project as a demo project. SCAG is amending and

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modeling this project as a demo project, not a permanent project. The demo project is slated to be running by December 31, 2010.

- 2008 RTIP is expected to receive federal approval by November 2008. The amendment to the 2008 RTIP will make it consistent with the RTP amendment.
- Most amended projects are minor changes that do not require modeling. However, SCAG has started modeling work and is no longer accepting any new projects.

4.2 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, reported that the 2008 RTIP was at Caltrans Headquarters for its review and approval. Staff anticipates that this process will be completed by the end of September. The RTIP will then be submitted to the Federal agencies on October 1, 2008. Staff anticipates that the Federal agencies will approve the RTIP sometime in early November.

The Caltrans FSTIP, which includes the 2008 RTIP, is currently out for a 30-day public review. The FSTIP is posted on the Caltrans website.

4.3 Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

- 1) **ORA120520** – The City of Santa Ana is proposing to widen a segment of Grand Avenue between First Street and Fourth Street.

It was determined that this is not a POAQC.

4.4 Follow-Up from Previous PM Hot Spot Review

- 1) **LAE0465** – I-5 HOV and Truck Lanes Project

It was determined that this is not a POAQC and is acceptable for NEPA circulation.

4.5 TCM Discussion

Jonathan Nadler stated that a TCM discussion would be made a standing item on the TCWG agenda. The goal is to streamline the TCM review process to be more efficient. Mr. Nadler added that there had been a couple of MTA substitutions. One for a bike lane and one for bus stop improvements. These were both brought forward to the TCWG and reviewed. Staff was waiting for the EPA to give it some

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guidance. The guidance has been received and both items will be put out for public review.

5.0 INFORMATION SHARING

Mike Brady, Caltrans, reminded the TCWG that the Statewide Conformity meeting would be held in November. The main site will be the Fresno Air District. Video conferencing will be available from Bakersfield and Modesto. Also, the EPA has released their 120-day letter for PM_{2.5} designations. ARB is currently reviewing the letter and it is presumed that ARB will have some comments.

Carla Walecka, TCA, pointed out that the 2008 FSTIP and the 2009 FSTIP have a particular status in SB-375. Projects that are included in these two FSTIPs are 'grandfathered in'. For that reason, local agencies and transportation commissions are going to want to take a closer look at what projects were included to make sure that it is correct.

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, announced that there will be an event "Climate Change Workshop: Regional Strategies to Address AB 32" with ARB representatives at the next Regional Council meeting on September 4th. SCAG is also putting on a conference "High Gas Prices: The Tipping Point - A Regional Response to a Global Crisis" on September 10th at the Omni Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. The agendas for both events are posted on SCAG's website. A public hearing on the Foothill Corridor and Toll Road process with the I-241 is rescheduled to be on September 22nd in Del Mar. The comment period for this project starts on September 3rd and runs through October 2nd.

On September 23rd the FHWA will hold a webinar on NEPA's planning requirements.

It was announced that Jonathan Nadler had been promoted to Manager of the Transportation Modeling, Air Quality & Conformity Division.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

Jonathan Nadler adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on September 23, 2008 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.